GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:478
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
ALLOCATION OF COAL MINES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present allocation process of coal mines is susceptible to alleged corruption due to lack of transparency as reported in The Hindus/an Times dated April 06,2006;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to change the present system of allocation of coal mines;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 478 FOR 17.05.2006 BY SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD AND SHm KIRTI V ARDHAN SINGH

(a) to (e): At present, allocation of coni blocks for captive mining is made through a Screening Committee which has represe;ntation, interalia, from the related Central Ministries and State Governments. After hearing the applicants individually, the Screening Committee makes the selection in accordance with the guidelines prescribed in this behalf. In order to make the system even more transparent and objective in the context of increasing applicants and declining number of blocks available, a proposal to introduce a competitive bidding system for allocation of coal blocks for captive use is under consideration of the Government. Since adoption of the proposed competitive bidding process will require a legislative amendment, it will not be possible to indicate a specific time frame in the matter.